

SITUATION REPORT NO. 35
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: February 25, 1997 TIME: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Latest estimates by the N.D. Department of Agriculture indicate that the state livestock industry has sustained approximately \$32.8 million in direct losses, including: \$6 million for buildings and machinery; \$4.7 million in livestock deaths; \$21.7 million in extra feed consumption; and \$50,000 for milk dumped because of blocked access roads.

The N.D. Game and Fish Department staff received reports of 700-plus sites of deer depredation of livestock feed because of winter storms. Food sources for deer were limited by snow depths and the severity of winter. Hence, deer began feeding and damaging North Dakota farmers' livestock feed supplies. The Game and Fish Department expended \$600,000 to address the problem, including \$200,000 from its own budget and \$400,000 from the Emergency Commission.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTION: Governor Schafer on February 24 requested that the Small Business Administration include Bowman County as part of the Declaration of Economic Injury that was issued February 11 for 49 other North Dakota counties. Small businesses and agricultural cooperatives suffering losses because of the winter storms may file applications for economic injury assistance until November 12, 1997. The SBA designated all but four southwest counties.

Thirty-three N.D. National Guard members remain on State Active Duty as repairs are made to equipment used in snow removal operations. Repairs are taking place at eight

maintenance organizational maintenance shops at six locations, Bismarck, Devils Lake, Fargo, Jamestown, Minot and Valley City.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is in the process of conducting a damage assessment as a result of the Governor's request for a Secretarial Disaster Designation. This designation would allow FSA agricultural credit for farmers and ranchers to cover losses, including physical losses.

As of February 24, the Disaster Field Office (DFO) staff members have submitted 147 Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) to the processing center at FEMA Region VIII in Denver, Colo. To date, 126 DSRs have been obligated and submitted to the N.D. Division of Emergency Management for delivery to applicants. Thirty applicants have all their DSRs submitted for processing.

According to a February 22-24 DFO update, the DFO staff has received 263 Notice of Interests (NOIs) to participate in the public assistance program. NOIs have been received from the following entities: one rural water district; one public school district; four state agencies; three Indian Reservations; 50 counties; and 204 cities. At present, 48 counties have indicated that all NOIs have been submitted.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The next situation report will be issued on March 4, 1997.

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director